

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property or Properties: Buckhorn State Park

Year Master Plan was Approved: 2007

Property-wide

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Recreation Management</p>	<p>Camping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and expand modern, rustic, and special camping opportunities without losing the quiet, natural camping experience currently offered at Buckhorn State Park. • Improve the quality of the camping experience provided at Buckhorn State Park by increasing campground privacy. This will be accomplished by increased campsite separation distances and/or vegetative screening. <p>Park Day-Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for a variety of large and small-scale group gatherings in diverse natural settings. • Increase opportunities for environmental education within the park. • Provide high-quality visitor support facilities while preserving the Park's natural character. <p>Trails</p> <p>Provide a variety of trails for various recreational and educational experiences including hiking, interpretation, nature study on land and water, biking, and limited snowmobiling. See Map D for trail locations and Table 2-2 for a complete listing of existing and future trails and their lengths.</p> <p>Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS)</p> <p>Serve park operations/administration needs, and provide visitor service facilities and to support nature interpretation/education programs.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2010</p>	<p><i>In the spring of 2010, school groups assisted in planting trees and shrubs between campsites to provide vegetative screening between sites.</i></p> <p><i>An LTE naturalist provided environmental education programs. We also had some volunteers give naturalist talks.</i></p> <p><i>The park office interpretive room was rearranged to have sections with an interpretive theme. Some new</i></p>

	<p><i>displays were constructed and plans were made with the state naturalist to improve the interpretive room.</i></p> <p><i>Trails were groomed for cross county skiing.</i></p> <p><i>An accessible gravel path was constructed from the turtle trail parking lot to the fish pond/pier.</i></p> <p><i>An asphalt spur was completed from the accessible portion of the barrens nature trail to the observation tower.</i></p> <p><i>Paperwork was submitted for a 30-unit family campground to include 10 electric sites and a dump station.</i></p> <p><i>Funding was proposed for 2011-2013.</i></p> <p><i>Ice push damage of asphalt at Launch A was patched.</i></p>
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Property-wide

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Infrastructure Mgt.</p>	<p>Road System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and improve the park road system to provide the public safe and attractive access to the park. <p>Utility Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage overhead utility lines to make meet design standards, which will make them unobtrusive to increase the natural aesthetics.
<p>Accomplishments 2010</p>	<p><i>In 2010, we had the county grade the gravel/dirt road at least three times. Gravel was added to a stretch of low area on this road. The snowmobile trail remained closed this past winter due to safety concerns. It had used segments of park road that were narrow and were open to vehicle traffic. There are no overhead lines remaining in the park.</i></p>

Property-wide

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Hunting and Wildlife Mgt.</p>	<p>Hunting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide quality hunting and hunter education opportunities in the park that are compatible with other recreational uses and that maintain visitor safety. <p>Deer Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage deer populations in accordance with Deer Management Unit 54A, which has an over-winter deer density goal of 25 deer per square mile.
<p>Accomplishments 2010</p>	<p><i>Novice hunt was held at the park to help educate novice hunters. Two hunter safety classes were held at the park. Deer gun hunting opportunities were allowed in a 1200 acre section of the state park that was recently acquired. The hunt was safe and successful and were open to all deer gun and archery seasons offered in zone 54A.</i></p>

Recreation Management Area

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetation Mgt.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage with an emphasis on native plants. • In campgrounds, provide for a healthy mixed forest (in both age and species composition) of longer-lived tree species. A shrub layer should also be developed to provide screening between campsites whenever possible. • Throughout the remainder of the recreation management unit, excluding mowed grass areas, provide and maintain a woodland/barrens/grassland landscape, including the establishment of an additional 120 -160 acres of barrens/grassland. • To the degree practicable (considering the primary ecological management objectives of the various areas of the park), manage vegetation to avoid producing or maintaining habitats that promote high deer populations.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2010</p>	<p><i>In 2010, volunteers and park staff planted different species of trees and shrubs at campsites and picnic areas to provide diversity and prevent monoculture problems. The large oak and jack pine forest sections at the park have suffered high tree mortality due to oak wilt disease and jack pine budworm.</i></p> <p><i>In 2010, wood permits were given out to clear out dead oak trees. Brush piles were then burned during the winter. A tree harvester machine and operator was contracted to drop dead trees. The park was used as a FISTA chainsaw class location and several dead oaks were cut down during this training. These tasks assisted in expanding the barrens area.</i></p>

Buckhorn Sand Barrens Management Area

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and maintain approximately 260 acres of ecologically functioning sand barrens native community. • Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation.
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Vegetation Mgt.	
Accomplishments 2010	<i>No Action</i>

Buckhorn Oak Barrens Management Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES Vegetation Mgt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and maintain approximately 298 acres of ecologically functioning oak barrens native community with an open park-like structure. • Provide opportunities for research, ecological observation, interpretation, and wildlife viewing.
Accomplishments 2010	<p><i>Wood permits were issued to clear out dead and down oak wilt pockets in potential barrens areas. Volunteers and staff burned brush piles during the winter. A tree harvester machine and operator was contracted to drop dead trees. The park was used as a FISTA chainsaw class location and several dead oaks were cut down during this training. A 58 acre timber harvest was completed for the goal of fire hazard reduction in state park and Buckhorn Wildlife Area. The area is now ready for a prescribed burn to be done at a future date.</i></p>

Common Management Elements – Buckhorn State Park, Buckhorn Wildlife Area, and Yellow River Wildlife Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES Real Estate Mgt.	<p>Recent Park Land Acquisitions / Transactions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire acreage within the expanded project boundary totaling 2578 acres. <p>Existing Leased Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of land and resources within the 280 acres of scenic easement land within the State Park is governed by the terms of the existing agreement between WRPCo. and the Department of Natural Resources. The 280-acre parcel is within the original park boundary. The
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	state will attempt to purchase this land if it becomes available.
<i>Accomplishments 2010</i>	<i>Purchase of easement area was completed in 2009. The WRPCo still owns 366 acres of shoreline, flowed lands, and an island in the project boundary.</i>